



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: August 22, 2016 – Workshop

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA

Present: Chairman Stevens, Vice Chair C. Woodbury, Clerk Hicks, Members Pepe and G. Woodbury. Administrator Gaudette was on vacation.

At 6:07 p.m. Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

6:00 p.m. National Grid Pole Hearing North Spencer Road- Plan #19834196

Chairman Stevens opened the hearing at 6:07 pm.

National Grid Design Engineer Ricardo Maldonado was present to represent National Grid. He reviewed the plan and made note of a minor change on sheet 3 that was made to accommodate the request of Marilyn Flavin of 196 North Spencer Road who requested they shift some of the poles slightly to the side.

U & F Superintendent Steve Tyler asked to have poles installed at the current staked location which is 8' from the road. Mr. Maldonado said he would accommodate that request.

Evelyn Flavin of 202 North Spencer Road stated there are now two sets of poles and lines in the area and asked if there was a way to reconfigure the design to have only the lines that are for her property running through her property. Mr. Tyler explained there are multiple services in her yard and a few locations where poles are in the old alignment on private property.

National Grid representative Kevin Shaughnessy explained that this pole line is strictly for the Abbey Solar Project. If there is any change with the existing structure, a discussion will need to take place and the person asking for a change for their benefit will have to bear the cost and that what Ms. Flavin is requesting is a separate system.

Mr. Tyler said that this project has been met with problems since the beginning. The design of the power should never have been segmented from the project and has resulted in multiple issues. The developer refused to submit the design and now there are two different circuits and they were asked to keep this project to one. A project of this size needs to be looked at in its entirety.

Father Vincent from the Abbey asked about moving the power lines on Old Spencer Road to include them on the new poles. Mr. Shaughnessy explained that any work being done as a change requested by customer is billable to the customer. Ratepayers cannot pick up the cost for customer requests.

Selectmen Hicks moved to continue the hearing to September 12 to allow time to get answers to questions being asked. Motion was not seconded. After some discussion, Mr. Hicks withdrew his motion and asked National Grid to work with the Flavin's in good faith.

Ms. Flavin said she did not want to hold up the Abbey, however would like her concerns addressed.

Highway Foreman Eben Butler pointed out that Verizon and Charter would also need to be willing to move their lines as this is not just a National Grid issue.

A motion to approve the request of National Grid to install poles as discussed, with the condition that an amended plan is provided per Steve Tyler's request and for National Grid to research Evelyn Flavin's request and report back to the Town Administrator by September 12, 2016 (Hicks/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Mr. Shaughnessy reported that a lot of progress has been made on the removal of double poles. Selectmen C. Woodbury asked about pole # 42 on Cranberry Meadow. Mr. Shaughnessy said that pole will be removed and that communication with Charter and Verizon are ongoing. Verizon has been made aware and the removal of existing double poles should be completed in the fall.

The hearing was closed at 7:05 pm. All were in favor.

6:15 p.m. – Public Input on “Complete Streets” – Dan Daniska, CMRPC

Dan Daniska, representing CMRPC presented a brief overview of the Complete Streets project. Steve Tyler, U & F Superintendent was also present.

Mr. Daniska explained that Tier I of the Complete Streets Project involved the development of a policy. Tier II is the development of prioritization plan and obtaining public feedback. CMRPC has completed their field data collection and in the next phase they will develop the final steps of their draft list.

Mr. Daniska asked if there were any questions from the public or the Board.

In response to a question from Mr. Pepe, Mr. Tyler explained that not only will this project not have an adverse effect on any TIP projects, it will actually open up other opportunities for improvements in the Town.

Mr. Daniska pointed out that if the project moves to the Tier III Construction Phase, funding can be used on local roads.

The Board thanked Mr. Danisaka and Mr. Tyler for the update.

Discussion: Parks & Recreation Update

Parks and Rec members Corinne Kennedy, Rob Churchey, Tony Toscano, and Marty German were present to provide an update on the status of the parks.

Powder Mill Park

- Summer concerts are being held and going well. All have been paid for by the use of a grant.
- A yoga group meets at the park on a routine basis.
- Ms. Kennedy is working with Little Tykes to repair damaged items in the park.
- The Fire Department raised \$4,000 from the Family Fun Run which will be used to pay for repairs.

O'Gara Park

- Rob Churchey reported that \$10,000 was invested in the field to allow football and other groups to practice and play games. Tony Toscano oversees this park. A lot of vandalism has taken place in recent months. The Police are helping, however due to the secluded nature of the area there are ongoing issues including people sleeping there, gate being damaged, repaired, and damaged again.
- A security camera system that ties into the Police Station is needed at these parks. The estimated cost is \$40,000 for the three parks.
- Paxton Light has been asked to install security lighting for several years, yet it is still not done.

Luther Hill Park

- Exploring the idea of shared recreational programs with nearby towns to assist with resources at this park.
- Working with the Highway Department to remove dangerous trees.

Prouty Park

- Spencer Exchange Club has done a great job with recent improvements and it is looking very nice.

Bemis Park & Ralph Warren Park

- Not much activity at these parks.

Rail Trail

- The Highway Department is doing a great job. Mr. Tyler and Mr. Butler have completed much of the work that has been done to date.

Ms. Kennedy mentioned she is researching a grant for O'Gara Park as a historic park and needs to validate the date it was created. Mr. Hicks offered to assist with grant writing.

Mr. Pepe noted that funding is needed on an annual basis for these parks. He and the Board thanked the Committee for their creative work and for taking ownership in this volunteer effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

National Grid Plan #19834196
Complete Streets Presentation